

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR  
February 14, 2003

GOVERNOR AND JFC BUDGET PROPOSALS

Recent budget proposals from the Governor, and actions yesterday by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance (JFC), point to reductions in funding for cleaning up contamination and brownfields redevelopment. To address the budget deficit in the current year, on January 23rd the Governor proposed a \$1 million reduction in Wisconsin's Environmental Repair Appropriation. DNR uses this funding to contract for emergency spill response and investigating and cleaning up contamination where a responsible party (RP) is not cleaning up contamination because the RP is unknown, or is unable or unwilling to proceed. Contaminated sites are recommended for action under this appropriation based on environmental and health concerns, community priorities, and lack of alternative funding choices. DNR must address cost recovery whenever these state funds are used. RR Program staff have already begun evaluating which cleanup contracts may need to be reduced in scope. In addition, the Governor proposed a half million dollar reduction in DNR's Green Space and Public Facilities grant program, and the JFC proposed an additional half million dollar reduction, leaving no funds for this new grant program. The Governor also proposed a \$3.5 million reduction in the Department of Commerce Brownfield Grants Program, and the JFC reduced an additional \$2.75 million, eliminating all competitive Commerce brownfield grants funding. Finally, the JFC proposed eliminating \$125,000 in Sustainable Urban Development Zone (SUDZ) funding that has not already been awarded to a municipality. The budget repair bill will not be final until acted on by the full Legislature and signed by the Governor. On Tuesday, February 18, the Governor will release his state budget proposal for the 2003-2005 biennium.

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